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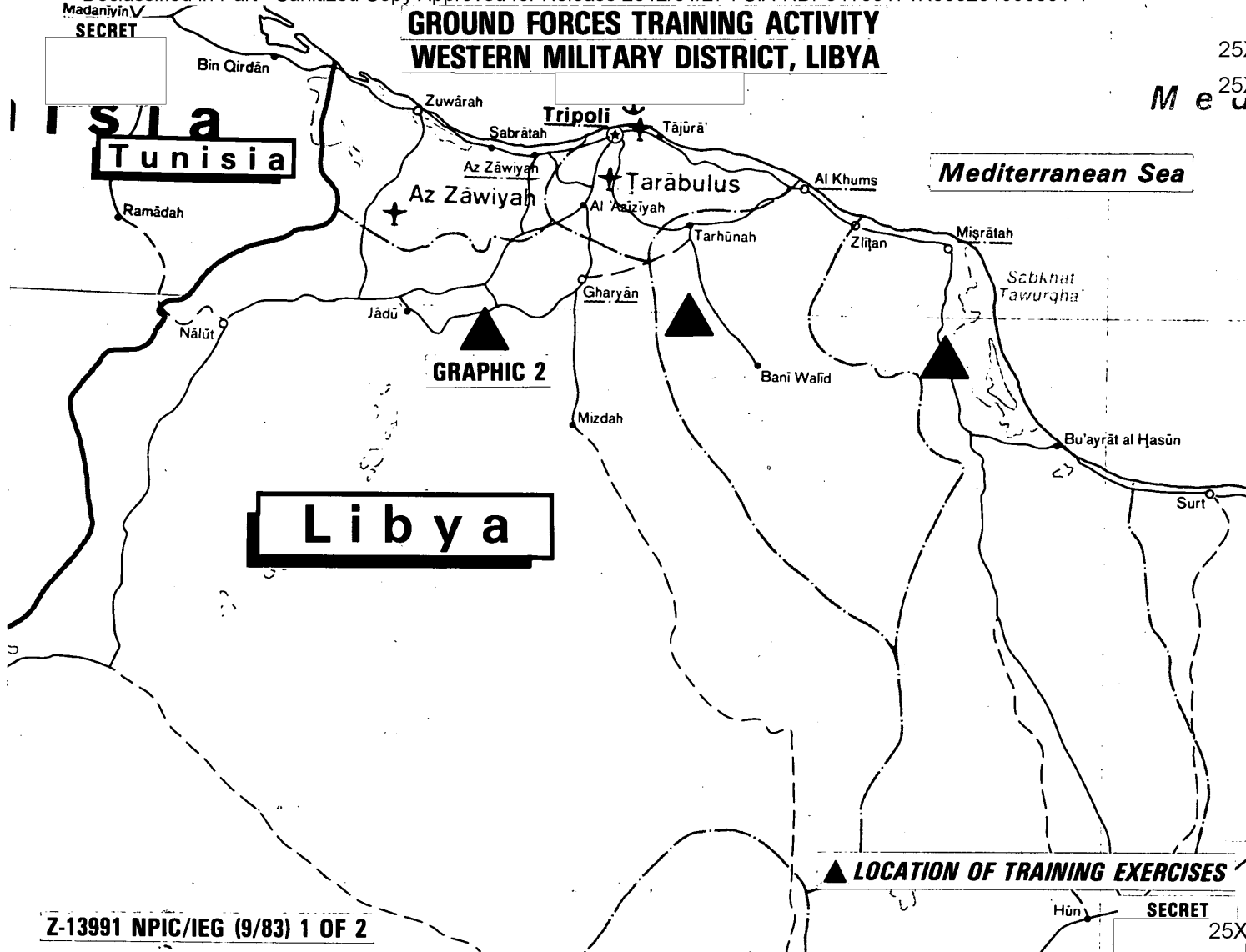
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GROUND FORCES TRAINING ACTIVITY WESTERN MILITARY DISTRICT, LIBYA

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NPIC/IEG (9/83)

28 SEPTEMBER 1983

**GROUND FORCES TRAINING ACTIVITY
WESTERN MILITARY DISTRICT, LIBYA (SWN)**

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1. **SIGNIFICANCE:** LARGE-SCALE GROUND FORCES TRAINING EXERCISES, ONE POSSIBLY AT THE BRIGADE LEVEL, WERE OBSERVED IN LIBYA'S WESTERN MILITARY DISTRICT. THE SIZE AND COMPOSITION OF THIS ACTIVITY IS WITHOUT PRECEDENT IN LIBYA. (SWN)
2. **REMARKS:** LARGE-SCALE TRAINING EXERCISES INVOLVING 22 MAJOR MANEUVER BATTALIONS (BNS) WERE OBSERVED IN THREE AREAS OF THE WESTERN MILITARY DISTRICT. THE LARGEST OF THE THREE EXERCISES WAS IN THE JADU MIZDAH TRAINING AREA, A NEWLY IDENTIFIED AREA 75 NM SOUTHWEST OF TARABULUS. THE PRIMARY UNITS PARTICIPATING IN THIS EXERCISE INCLUDED SIX PROBABLE TANK BNS, TWO PROBABLE MECHANIZED (MECH) INFANTRY (INF) BNS, FIVE SELF-PROPELLED ARTILLERY BNS, TWO MULTIPLE ROCKET LAUNCHER (MRL) BNS, ONE FROG BN, AND ONE TOWED ARTILLERY BN. THE FIVE REMAINING UNITS INVOLVED IN EXERCISES WERE TRAINING IN THE EASTERN PORTION OF THE WESTERN MILITARY DISTRICT. TWO MECH INF BNS, ONE TANK BN, AND ONE MRL BN WERE DEPLOYED 66 NM SOUTHEAST OF TARABULUS AND 17.5 NM NORTHWEST OF BANI WALID AT 31-59-00N 013-47-15E. ONE TOWED ARTILLERY BN WAS DEPLOYED 120 NM SOUTHEAST OF TARABULUS AND 52 NM EAST OF BANI WALID AT 31-42-10N 015-01-00E. (SWN)

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ANALYST COMMENTS: THE UNITS IN THE JADU MIZDAH AREA MAY HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN BRIGADE LEVEL TRAINING. ALTHOUGH NO DISTINGUISHABLE BRIGADE PARKING PATTERNS OR BRIGADE MANUEVERS WERE OBSERVED, THE TYPES AND NUMBER OF UNITS THAT WERE PRESENT IN THIS AREA SUGGEST THAT AT LEAST TWO ARMOR BRIGADES AND ONE ARTILLERY BRIGADE MAY HAVE BEEN PARTICIPATING. THIS WOULD BE THE FIRST TIME LIBYAN UNITS HAVE BEEN OBSERVED TRAINING WITHIN A BRIGADE STRUCTURE. ALTHOUGH THE BATTALION IS THE BASIC MANEUVER ELEMENT OF THE LIBYAN ARMY, REPORTEDLY THE LIBYANS HAVE FORMED BRIGADES THAT ARE SUBORDINATE TO A DIVISION, WITHIN

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SELECTED MILITARY DISTRICTS. A REVIEW OF IMAGERY PRIOR TO THIS DATE REVEALED THAT THE MAJORITY OF THE UNITS INVOLVED IN THESE EXERCISES WERE PROBABLY FROM GARRISONS IN THE TARABULUS, AZ ZAWIYAH, TARHUNAH, AND GHARYAN AREAS OF NORTHWEST LIBYA. (SWN)

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3. BE NONE, COORDINATES NONE (U)

4. COLLATERAL REFERENCE: DIA, GROUND ORDER OF BATTLE: NORTH AFRICA STATES, DDB-1100-318-82, NOVEMBER 1982. (S)

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